

sale of the properties and still be able to argue against the savings.

Mr. POLIS. I would inquire if the gentleman from Florida has any remaining speakers.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, we have no other presenters. We are ready to close.

Mr. POLIS. I will yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that significant issues still remain with the Civilian Property Realignment Act in its current form. The gentleman discussed the potential savings from this bill.

To be clear, this is a transfer of items that are already in the asset column of the Federal Government. It's not the creation of new value or new money out of nothing. It simply turns assets into cash.

We need cash. We have a large deficit to cover. It makes sense to sell excess properties, but this money doesn't come from nowhere. Once those properties are sold, those will no longer be on the ledgers of the Federal Government.

Now, it does save significant operating capital and maintenance of these unnecessary properties; but, again, I think common sense would indicate that if the commission costs \$20 million to set up, with the various people involved with this process, we should specify where that money is coming from in the bill. And I think that there would be a way to do that on a bipartisan basis.

Given all the concerns that remain with this bill regarding how it's paid for, the homeless situation, and the NEPA, the environmental review protections, we should be engaging in an open process, not one that limits and shuts down debate.

The American people are frustrated that this Congress refuses to consider bipartisan-supported balanced bills that would stimulate job growth in our country and restore fiscal responsibility.

We can only reignite the American Dream and reinvigorate our economy by strengthening the middle class and encouraging innovation. President Obama has introduced a package to spur small business growth and startups, which includes many of the proposals previously offered by Members on both sides of the aisle with bipartisan support. And yet, to the dismay on many on my side of the aisle, this Congress has yet to consider these measures that will strengthen the middle class and help small business grow.

I do applaud the majority for beginning to take up the process that President Obama has put forth in his fiscal year 2012 budget of selling off excess Federal property. There just remain a few I's to dot and a few T's to cross to ensure that this important piece of legislation can garner the support of the bipartisan majority in this body.

There remains much work to be done on the large issues, including enacting a comprehensive jobs plan, extending

the payroll tax cuts and unemployment insurance, ensuring seniors have access to their doctors under Medicare, comprehensive tax reform, and putting our fiscal house in order by passing a bold and balanced plan to reduce the deficit.

Selling off excess Federal assets and making sure that the Federal Government doesn't own or have to maintain or operate more than we need to is a small, but critical, piece of the overall equation. This Congress has the opportunity to get it right through a deliberative process.

But because the majority has restricted debate on the underlying bill, I cannot support this rule, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "no" on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

The cost of real property to the Federal Government—costs are significant, and most agencies do not have the incentives to minimize those costs. Properties sit vacant and woefully underutilized, not only costing taxpayers billions of dollars, but often are eyesores in the local communities, and steal property away from the ad valorem revenues of local communities.

Even so, despite the current budget climate, many agencies continue to seek more space than is necessary, reducing efficiency and increasing cost. Better management of Federal property presents an opportunity to reduce expenditures and increase revenues.

H.R. 1734 is a bipartisan measure. It seeks to address a problem that has become a hallmark of our bloated, inefficient Federal bureaucracy. H.R. 1734 is intended to bring an independent process outside the bureaucratic red tape to the management of real property owned by the Federal Government. It will reduce waste, increase efficiency of the Federal Government, and produce significant savings for the taxpayer.

With deficits over \$1 trillion in the Federal Government, we simply can't afford to sit on money-losing properties and empty Federal buildings any longer. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of the rule and passage of the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 537, by the yeas and nays;
Motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 1162, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1734, CIVILIAN PROPERTY REALIGNMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 537) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 233, nays 155, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—233

Adams	Bucshon	Duffy
Aderholt	Burgess	Duncan (SC)
Akin	Burton (IN)	Duncan (TN)
Alexander	Calvert	Ellmers
Amash	Camp	Emerson
Amodei	Canseco	Farenthold
Austria	Cantor	Fincher
Bachmann	Capito	Fitzpatrick
Bachus	Carter	Flake
Barletta	Cassidy	Fleischmann
Bartlett	Chabot	Fleming
Barton (TX)	Chaffetz	Flores
Bass (NH)	Coble	Forbes
Benishek	Coffman (CO)	Fortenberry
Berg	Cole	Fox
Biggert	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Billray	Costa	Frelinghuysen
Bilirakis	Cravaack	Galleghy
Bishop (UT)	Crawford	Gardner
Black	Crenshaw	Garrett
Blackburn	Culberson	Gerlach
Bono Mack	Davis (KY)	Gibbs
Boren	Denham	Gibson
Boustany	Dent	Gingrey (GA)
Brady (TX)	DesJarlais	Gohmert
Brooks	Diaz-Balart	Goodlatte
Brown (GA)	Dold	Gosar
Buchanan	Dreier	Gowdy